

# **US 93 SOUTH CROSSING STRUCTURE EVALUATION**

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to determine the effectiveness of animal crossing structures and associated wildlife fencing in providing improved public safety and permeable roadways by investigating animal-vehicle collisions and animal crossing structure usage before and after construction. White-tailed deer is the species of focus for this investigation; however, it is likely that data on other species will also incidentally be collected and may be useful.

### **TASKS**

- All work should be conducted in a rigorous statistical manner.
- All work should be consistent with US 93 North research so that at a later date, the two data sets can be combined to enhance the data evaluation. The comparison of US 93 South and North data sets is not a part of this research. If deviations from the research conducted on US 93 North are proposed, explain why and the impact these deviations will have on combining the two data sets for future evaluation. See [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/env/wildlife\\_crossing.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/env/wildlife_crossing.shtml) for more information.
- The proposal should include a discussion of how the offeror will limit data loss due to faulty equipment, etc.
- Determine changes in animal vehicle collisions (AVC's) before and after construction for an approximate 25 mile (MP 49 to 74.3) stretch (or portions thereof) of US 93 South. This analysis will be conducted to a high spatial and temporal resolution analysis and should take into account the following:
  - Amount of traffic throughout the evaluation period and
  - White-Tailed deer population, including harvests and hunts throughout the evaluation period.
- Determine if there is a relationship between changes in AVC's and locations of crossing structures before and after construction for an approximate 12 mile (MP 53.7 to 65.94) stretch of US 93 South. Are there AVC "hotspots"? If so, did these "hotspots" change after construction?
- Determine usage rates by structure and across structures.
- Determine any significant relationships between usage rates and landscape and structure features, such as length, width, openness, and any other aspects of the structures.
- Data should be collected at least three years pre- and post-construction. Post-construction evaluation does not necessarily need to begin immediately following construction. Offeror should recommend methods and timeframes in proposal with justification.